

UCLA Faculty Association

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Thursday, August 8, 2024

Shots Fired at Berkeley



From [SEGate](#): The University of California Police Department said multiple local law enforcement agencies are searching for a man suspected of firing shots at the Clark Kerr residence hall track on the UC Berkeley campus Thursday morning. The suspect is described as a man with "bleached" hair and possibly red or orange highlights in a message issued through the university's WarnMe emergency alert service. Witnesses to the shooting also told police that the suspect was wearing a black shirt,

black pants and a red backpack.

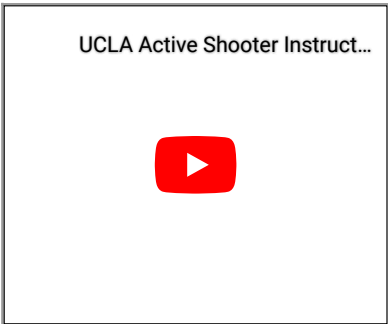
Witnesses told police that a man allegedly fired a gun at runners circling the Clark Kerr track around 7:30 a.m. Approximately two to three shots were heard at that time. Police and officers with other local agencies were requesting drones and dogs to look for the man, who witnesses said may have fled into the hills behind campus.

The university issued a WarnMe message shortly after the shooting asking people to avoid the areas of the Clark Kerr Campus and Hillside Campus. A follow-up message asked the public to also avoid the areas around the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the UC Botanical Garden, Lawrence Hall of Science, the Space Sciences Lab and the Math Sciences Research Institute.

UC Berkeley has not started fall semester; most students won't be returning to campus for more than a week, with the fall semester beginning Aug. 21. UCPD did not immediately respond to a request for more information.

Source: <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/shots-fired-uc-berkeley-campus-thursday-19628472.php>.

Reminder:



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrbqmqzCZS_A.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [11:41AM](#) No comments: [✉](#) [✎](#) [M](#) [E](#) [T](#) [F](#) [P](#)

Labels: [UC-Berkeley](#)

Don't Touch

We seem to have athletics problems that go beyond changing conferences and outside of the big money sports.

From the [Daily Bruin](#): A UCLA baseball coach was disciplined for slapping a player, according to a university report obtained by the Daily Bruin. David Berg, formerly an assistant coach of UCLA baseball, was placed on investigative leave for striking a player in the face after a dinner with the team's recruits Oct. 27, 2023, according to 102 pages of documents obtained by The Bruin. Berg was disciplined with a fine of \$10,000, a one-month suspension from working with the team in any capacity for the month of January and a suspension for the first seven games held in February. Berg is no longer employed by UCLA Athletics...

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"My intention was to give him a love tap on the cheek," Berg told Hamilton Lee – an investigator from campus Human Resources...

John Savage, the team's head coach, told investigators that he did not witness the incident. He also told investigators that although he believed the slap's intentions to be playful, he did not see touching players as in line with the program's values. Although the player also told the investigator that Berg had previously struck members of the team in the locker room, the investigation did not rule on those claims. The player who was slapped Oct. 27 also said he did not want to see Berg severely punished...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2024/08/05/former-ucla-baseball-assistant-coach-disciplined-for-slapping-player>.



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Posted by California Policy Issues at [8:23 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [athletics](#), [UCLA](#)

Santa Cruz as a Bellwether? - Part 2



On Tuesday we published a bit of (maybe) cheery state budget news.* But that pertains to the future. And this is now:

From [Lookout Santa Cruz](#): UC Santa Cruz is facing a challenging budget year and will potentially have to announce layoffs in the coming weeks as rising employee costs, drying out pandemic-era funds and stagnant revenue – partially due to its limits to growing enrollment in housing-challenged Santa Cruz –

caused a more than \$100 million deficit for fiscal year 2024.

UCSC chief financial officer Ed Reiskin said he and the budget office are finalizing plans for a \$17 million reduction to the school's fiscal year 2024-25 budget.

Part of that \$17 million will come from finding different funding sources to cover some staff positions. But ultimately, an undetermined number of positions at UC Santa Cruz will likely need to be eliminated. Reiskin said he thinks the university's budget office will know how many layoffs they'll have to make in a week or so...







UCSC's budget is just over \$1 billion for the upcoming fiscal year and it had about 17,800 undergraduate students this past fall. University officials expect enrollment will be around the same this fall...

"I meet with my counterparts from the other UCs, and I think everyone is dealing with some level of structural deficit," he said...

Full story at <https://lookout.co/uc-santa-cruz-facing-budget-cuts-layoffs-likely/>.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/08/a-little-cheer.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:00 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [State Budget](#), [UC-Santa Cruz](#)

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Bubbles



Unclear how these bubble proposals - if enacted - would affect UCLA and other campuses within LA County and city. From the [LA Times](#):

Protesters would need to give 8 feet of space to people entering abortion clinics, schools or places of worship across swaths of Los Angeles County under two "bubble zone" proposals gaining speed.

Citing rising violence and unruly protests, L.A. County and city officials inched forward Tuesday with the proposals, which would make it a misdemeanor for protesters to intentionally block the entrances of healthcare facilities, schools or religious institutions — or demonstrate within 8 feet of anyone trying to get inside. The protective 8-foot "bubble" would be required within 100 feet of a facility's entrance.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted Tuesday to ask county lawyers to draft an ordinance that would apply to unincorporated areas, home to 1 million people. L.A. City Councilmembers Katy Yaroslavsky and Bob Blumenfield introduced a nearly identical motion, which is slated to go before the council's public safety committee in the coming weeks...

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Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-08-07/bubble-zone-abortion-clinics-synagogues>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:28 PM No comments:

Labels: [politics](#), [UCLA](#)

Will this telescope removal affect the TMT project?

While the Thirty-Meter Telescope project (TMT) in Hawaii in which UC is involved remains in limbo, the [LA Times](#) reports on another telescope being removed from the site and replaced by one in Chile:

After decades of mounting tension between scientists and Native Hawaiians, Caltech has completed its removal of a telescope from the summit of Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano that is revered by the island's Indigenous population. The decommissioning of the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory in July follows the removal of a University of Hawaii observatory a month earlier, and comes amid a cultural resurgence among Native Hawaiians.

"Nothing is forever," said Gregory Chun, the executive director of the Center for Maunakea Stewardship at the University of Hawaii and a Native Hawaiian...

Prized for its altitude, dark skies and low humidity, Mauna Kea still hosts 11 other telescopes. Although the facilities have brought Hawaii international acclaim in astronomy and have helped to boost the local economy, Native Hawaiians have long regarded the summit as their spiritual connection to the heavens.

Protests erupted at the base of the mountain in 2019, when Caltech and the University of California proposed construction of another observatory called the Thirty Meter Telescope. The outcry led the state to shift oversight responsibilities from the University of Hawaii — which leased the land to Caltech — to the new Maunakea Stewardship Oversight Authority, which is composed of local, environmental and scientific stakeholders...

Throughout the process, cultural observers were present to ensure deconstruction was done in a respectful way, and while the new authority was not involved in the decommissioning process, Caltech invited members to perform cultural ceremonies at its conclusion.

...Over its roughly three decades of observations, the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory has played a key role in several scientific breakthroughs in astrophysics. The observatory was first designed to detect some of the most unexplored wavelengths of light, between a third of a millimeter and one millimeter — much longer than visible light. The telescope, with its fellow Mauna Kea resident the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope, discovered that Earth is basking in light from excited molecules living quietly in interstellar space... Now, the Caltech telescope moves to Chile with a new name (the Leighton Chajnantor Telescope), new instruments and the opportunity to reestablish itself on the cutting edge of astronomy.

...Despite criticisms, the telescopes do help the state economically, and they support science and engineering on the islands as many of Hawaii's young people are leaving to pursue degrees in these fields...

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2024-08-02/caltech-dismantles-observatory-atop-sacred-hawaiian-mountain>.

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*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/06/new-effort-on-tmt.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:

Labels: [CalTech](#), [UC](#)

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

A little cheer



Wall Street seems to have had a panic attack yesterday concerning the possibility of a recession. And, indeed, labor market indicators suggest at least a slowing down of the economy, national and state. All of that could be bad news for the state budget. BUT... we have some advance indication that state revenues are coming in ahead of projections made when the current year's budget was passed.

Jason Sisney of the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) writes on his Substack blog:

July 2024 income taxes, inclusive of both personal income and corporation taxes, were \$1.26 billion (16.4%) above monthly budget projections based on preliminary data from California state tax collection agencies. July generally is one of the slowest tax collection months of the year in California. Corporation taxes were \$844 million (161.8%) above the monthly projections due to an unusually robust receipt day on July 16. As I noted then, such large single collection days can result from payments by a single corporate entity, but information on payments by specific taxpayers is confidential.

UCLA can be as neutral as the rest of them

Shifting Into Neutral: It's a Thing! - Part 2

Yale's Committee

Didn't want to let this issue slide

Numbers & Ratios - We Report; You Decide

9-11-01 at UCLA

Shifting Into Neutral: It's a Thing!

The times they are a'changing - Part 6

Take Us Out of the Ball Game

Water with the Guv

Upcoming Regents Agenda: Sept. 18-19, 2024

Updated Subway Construction

Unclear - Part 2

Berkeley Chancellor Interview: Institutional Neutr...

Well, I'm sure I could write something...

What will the fall rules be? - Part 2 (Now we know)

The Great Santa Cruz Panic of '24

The Senate Wants to Be In (or maybe near) the Room...

Regents Special Retreat: Wednesday-Thursday

TMT in Hawaii in the Past Tense?

Some UC-Retirement Programs for September

Bus Stop

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Artwork for Westwood/VA Subway Station

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association







Personal income tax payments in July were \$418 million (5.8%) above projections. Withholding from workers' paychecks was basically on target, with the gains resulting from quarterly and other payments...

Full story at <https://jasonsisisney.substack.com/p/july-income-taxes-16-above-projections>.

We should have the state controller's report for July on revenues in a few days for more detail. And, of course, we have to note that one month does not a year make. But it's probably not 1929:

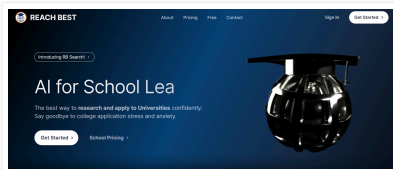


(Yours truly is more worried about whether it's 1939.)

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:16 AM No comments:      

Labels: controller, LAO, State Budget

AI Admissions



The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) has an article on the growth of an AI admissions industry. [excerpt]

...Reach Best went live in June and charges customers \$25 to \$200, depending on how many essay reviews and AI queries they want. Yet most of the 10,000 users ... use the site's free try-out section, he

said. Free competitor Kollegio went live [last] Thursday.







Students entering college this fall are the first to complete a full application cycle since generative AI tools like ChatGPT emerged in late 2022, and signs indicate they are already jumping on the technology. For the first time, the University of California's "statement of application integrity" contains a surprising message for all 250,000 applicants: When answering application questions, using generative AI for advice on content, editing and readability is fine. "But content and final written text must be their own," UC warns for the first time, noting that it screens responses and may ask applicants to prove they created the content themselves. If it detects cheating, UC "will take action."

About a third of 523 teens surveyed nationwide said they used AI to help them with the personal essays in their college application, according to foundry10, an education research group in Seattle that asked 16- to 18-year-old applicants about their AI habits in February and March.

Of the 153 students who used AI, half said it helped with brainstorming essay topics, checking grammar and creating an outline. About a third used AI to "enhance essay content phrasing." More troubling is that 49 of the respondents, or 32%, used the tool to generate a first draft of their essays. And 31 of them, 20%, used it to write their final essay.

...UC... is requiring applicants to click on its application integrity statement, generating a signature that affirms, for the first time, that they won't use AI to cheat. It remains unclear, however, if that is enough. Meanwhile, companies like Reach Best and Kollegio are rising in popularity...

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/ai-software-college-applications-19597583.php>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:      

Labels: admissions, plagiarism, UC

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